

**Stamford School Readiness Council
Parent Outreach Committee Meeting
January 17, 2012
12:00-1:00 p.m.
Government Center, 4th Floor Cafe**

MEETING SUMMARY

Attendees

Karen Brennan	Stamford Discovery Coordinator, United Way of Western CT
Jennifer Hallissey	Vice President of Education, United Way of Western CT
Deborah List, Co-Chair	Parent
Michele Sabia	Curriculum Associate for Early Childhood Education, Stamford Public Schools

Instead of a full meeting of the Parent Outreach Committee, we held a small transition meeting to discuss plans and next steps now that Bridget Fox has stepped down. Co-chair Keiah Minott was unable to join us at the last minute, but we will bring her up-to-date via e-mail.

Kindergarten Information Night

We discussed the School Readiness Council's desire to have Michele run an information night for the general public, like the ones she is doing for CLC and has done for some of the other local preschools. Michele is happy to help and would like to work with Beryl Williams who handles Kindergarten registration for the Stamford Public Schools. She is going to check with Beryl and offer a few dates that might work during the first or second week of March. We'll then reach out to Caroline Ward to see if the Library is available.

Looking forward, the Council (and Parent Outreach Committee) will want to publicize Dr. Singer's annual presentation on the magnet schools and application process. She offers this each December at Government Center and it is excellent. We can tie the presentation Michele does with this either prior to Dr. Singer's workshop and/or after.

2012 Play and Learn Nights

Michele is also happy to help us repeat our very successful Play and Learn Nights. We discussed the following details:

- We will host two nights, one in early May and one in early June (versus late June like last year).
- Ideally, one night will be at the Library and one at a CLC site.
- We will require registrations for both nights in order to cap attendance at 50 participants.
- We will have coloring sheets and crayons, and possibly have a book cart with books to read for children who finish the activity stations early. Then will do a short storytime with the children while Michele meets with their parents to answer questions.
- Through the Discovery/State Department of Education grants we have allotted \$1600. This should defray the costs of materials, teacher stipends, and other supplies.

- We will try and recruit teachers from as many of the elementary schools as possible and will also use the Instructional Coordinators as well.
- Volunteer help from the Parent Outreach Committee is essential the nights of the event for things like setup, cleanup, loading/unloading materials from the car, etc.

Next steps include:

- Michele will look at her calendar and offer possible date for that work for her.
- Karen will contact Caroline Ward and Imelda D'Luc regarding space and possible dates.
- Michele will review the handouts and activity materials we used last year and assess what we'll use again this year.
- Karen will contact Karen Cammarota to see how much copying can be done at Government Center using the School Readiness Council account. (Done! Karen C. is happy to pay for the copying out of the School Readiness budget.)
- Michele will assist in the coordinator of getting materials copied and Karen will recruit volunteers for help with assembly.

Additional Ideas and Activities

- Jennifer described a preliminary idea she is working on for the United Way that would involve a literacy event during the Week of the Young Child (nationally during the last week in April). It's still in the beginning stages, but if we can tie it together with the work we are doing, we'd love to help.
- The Early Childhood Fair is slated for May 19. A committee meeting, which the Parent Outreach members will be invited to, will be held in late February/March. The only detail needing attention is the Cove permit which Karen will complete and submit.